

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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USMISSION NATO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DA

SUBJ: PARLIAMENT APPROVES DEFENSE AGREEMENT

REF : COPENHAGEN 1459 DTG 101640Z MAR 77

SUMMARY: THE DANISH FOLKETING MARCH 25 PASSED THE NEW DANISH

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DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. THE RADICALS
AND THE THREE PARTIES ON THE FAR LEFT OPPOSED THE COMPROMISE.
DISREGARD BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE RADICAL PARTY'S POSITION
OPPOSING THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT MAY MARK THE END OF IM-
PORTANCE OF RADICAL INFLUENCE ON DANISH DEFENSE POLICY AFTER
MORE THAN 70 YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 25 THE DANISH FOLKETING APPROVED THE NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT COVERING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AND BEGINNING APRIL 1. THE VOTE WAS 125 FOR, 22 AGAINST, AND 6 ABSTENTIONS. TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS WERE ABSENT. (FOLKETING MEMBERSHIP IS 179.) ALTOGETHER, THE RADICALS AND THE THREE PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT HOLD 26 SEATS (INCLUDING GREENLANDER LARS EMIL JOHANNSEN); THE 6 ABSTENTIONS WERE REGISTERED BY THE SINGLE-TAX JUSTICE PARTY.

2. ALL THE OTHER SIX PARTIES, INCLUDING MOGENS GILSTRUP'S PROGRESS PARTY, BACKED THE AGREEMENT. SUPPORT FOR THE COMPROMISE BY THE LEFT WING OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION BY THEIR NORMAL ALLIES, THE RADICALS, WAS ATTRIBUTED BY SPOKESMEN TO A PERCEIVED "INCREASED STRENGTH OF THE LEFT" IN PARLIAMENT. THIS WAS HELD TO INSURE POSITIVE SOCIAL LEGISLATION IN THE FUTURE WITHOUT RADICAL PARTICIPATION.

3. DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MØLLER EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE VOTE AND SAID THAT SO LARGE A MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF DENMARK'S SECURITY POLICY STRENGTHENED THE COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT: FOLLOWING HIS VICTORY IN THE FEB 15 ELECTION, ANKER JØRGENSEN'S HAND HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED VIS-A-VIS THE LEFT WING OF HIS OWN PARTY. THE LARGE MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF THE COMPROMISE WAS, CONSEQUENTLY, NOT A SURPRISE. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS THAT THE RADICALS, WHO NOW HOLD ONLY SIX PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, APPEAR TO HAVE LOST WHAT FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN DANISH DEFENSE POLICY.

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